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Identical letters dated 26 December 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 25 December 2000 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the ongoing wanton aggression against Iraq by United States and British aircraft in the unlawful no-flight zones. During the period from 18 to 23 December 2000, these aircraft carried out 212 aggressive sorties, 100 of them from Saudi Arabia, 60 from Kuwait and 52 from Turkey.

The Minister affirms the Government of Iraq's condemnation of these acts of aggression against Iraqi territory, holds the United States, the United Kingdom and the countries that provide the logistic support for this aggression, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey, internationally responsible for these acts of aggression and calls upon you to assume your obligations under the Charter with a view to ensuring a halt to this unjustified aggression and non-resumption thereof.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 26 December 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq. In the period from 18 to 23 December 2000, these aircraft carried out 212 sorties, 100 of them from Saudi Arabia, 60 from Kuwait and 52 from Turkey, as shown hereunder.

1. In the northern region 52 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1030 hours on 18 December 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 26 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Irbil, Mosul, Sinjar and Ayn Zalah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1405 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1215 hours on 21 December 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out eight missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Aqrah, Rawanduz, Zakho and Amadiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1245 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1100 hours on 22 December 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Zakho, Baibo, Tall Afar, Ayn Zalah, Irbil, Dukan and Mosul areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1405 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 160 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1220 hours on 18 December 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 34 missions, 16 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 18 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Qurnah, Jalibah, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Diwaniyah, Ukhaydir, Amarah, Shinafiyah, Qal'at Sukkar and Taqtaqanah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged them and, at 1400 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1215 hours on 19 December 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, FR-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 16 missions, two of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 14 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Artawi, Busayyah, Basrah, Qurnah, Jalibah, Nasiriyah, Samawah and Ushbayjah areas. Our aid defences, acting in self-defence, engaged them and, at 1330 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1125 hours on 20 December 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 26 missions, 18 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and eight from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman, Basrah, Najaf, Karbala, Kut, Hashimiyah and Rifa'i areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1240 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1210 hours on 21 December 2000 United States and British F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 20 missions, 18 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and two from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Qal'at Sukkar, Jalibah, Hayy, Najaf and Diwaniyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1350 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 0825 hours on 22 December 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 44 missions, 28 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 16 of them from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Jalibah, Basrah, Salman, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Hayy, Qal'at Sukkar, Shinafiyah, Diwaniyah, Artawi, Lasaf, Nukhayb south, Ar'ar, Mashkhab, Shatrah, Ali al-Sharqi, Qurnah and Qal'at Salih. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1620 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 1240 hours on 23 December 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 20 missions, 18 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi territory and two from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Salman, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Qal'at Sukkar, Shinafiyah, Taqtaqanah, Ushbayjah, Najaf, Shatrah, Rifa'i and Amarah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1400 hours, drove them off.

This aggression illustrates the bellicose attitude being maintained by the United States of America and the United Kingdom against Iraq. Since 1992, it has become a fixed policy aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and at the systematic and concerted destruction of Iraqi lives, infrastructure and civilian installations. It is a policy that has been affirmed in successive statements made by United States and British officials defending the measures being taken to enforce the no-fly zones.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-fly zones which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States of America and the United Kingdom and lack any legal basis. Iraq rejects all the consequences of this illegal decision and, in particular, the flimsy excuses and pretexts used by these countries in an attempt to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British makes these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear full international responsibility under international law, including responsibility for payment of full compensation for the human and material losses and damage sustained as a result of these unlawful practices.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq renews its call to the States involved in the aggression to halt forthwith these internationally unlawful acts that violate the sovereignty of Iraq and pose a grave threat to that country's security and integrity, in addition to representing a direct and serious menace to international peace and security.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq, condemning these acts of aggression against Iraqi civilian targets and installations, calls upon you to intervene with the Governments of the States concerned and prevail upon them to halt, end and desist from any resumption of their constant and unwarranted aggression against an independent sovereign State.

(*Signed*) Mohammad Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq